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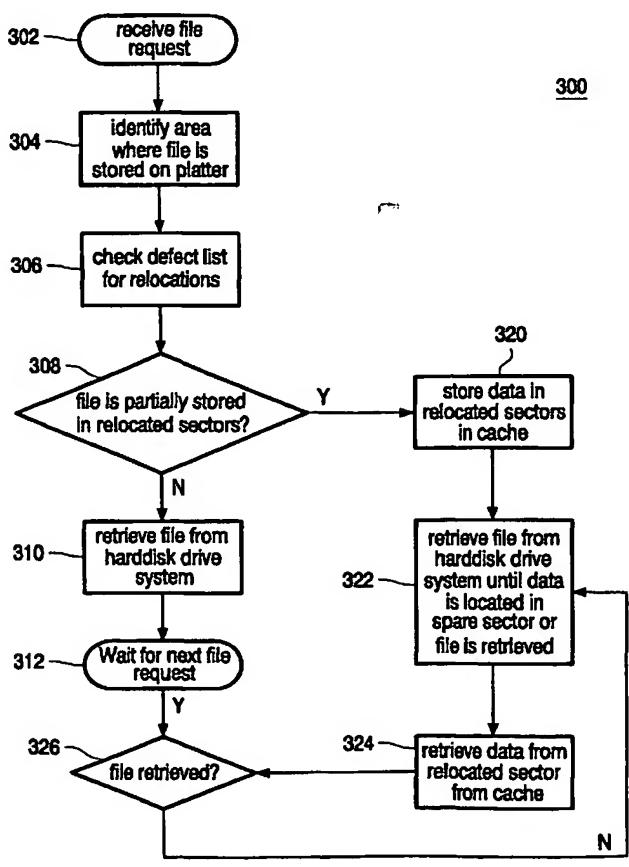
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RETRIEVING DATA



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of caching data stored in allocation units of a memory (102), preferably a harddisk drive system, of which retrieval incurs a performance penalty. An example of this is data in a spare sector (215), located in a spare area (210) on the hard disk platter (200). The cache memory (103) is, however, a precious commodity. The need for memory space may be reduced by only caching data in spare sectors in which data belonging to a file that is retrieved is stored. Also the impact of other kinds of causes of performance penalties may be solved in this way, like those caused by soft defects and fragmentation of files.

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European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 330 641 B1 (YOSHIOKA SADA0) 11 December 2001 (2001-12-11) figure 2 column 3, line 37 - line 63 column 4, line 46 - line 53	1, 4-9
Y	column 5, line 41 - column 6, line 56	3
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 390 (P-1577), 21 July 1993 (1993-07-21) & JP 05 066999 A (RICOH CO LTD), 19 March 1993 (1993-03-19)	3
A	abstract	1, 2, 4-9

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Application No. PCT/IB 03/04283

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 197 (P-1723), 6 April 1994 (1994-04-06) & JP 06 004225 A (FUJITSU LTD), 14 January 1994 (1994-01-14) abstract	1-9
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Information on patent family members

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